TRAIL & Landscape

A PUBLICATION CONCERNED WITH
NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION

Trail & Landscape Vol. 17, No. 5 / 241-272 / November-December 1983

Trail & Landscape

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— Founded 1879 —

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Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada; TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on local Club activities five times a year; and THE SHRIKE, a bimonthly newsletter on birdwatching in the Ottawa-Hull area, available by separate subscription.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

Membership Fees: Individual (yearly) $17 Sustaining (yearly) $40
(for 1984) Family (yearly) $19 Life (one payment) $400
Subscriptions to Trail & Landscape (libraries and institutions) $17 per year (Volume)
Single copies of recent issues $3.50 each.

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Second Class Mail — Registration #2777

Vol 17 No 5

TRAIL & Landscape ©

Published by
The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
Box 3264, Postal Station C
Ottawa K1Y 4J5

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Welcome, New Members - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 242

Trail & Landscape: Acknowledgements and Help - 243
Wanted

Update on Alfred Bog Preservation Effort - - - - 244
Dan Brunton

Recent Bird Sightings - - - - - - - - - - - - - 245
Bill Coburn

Early Botanizing in Bytown - - - - - - - - - - - 248
Jim Neelin

Jack Pine Trail - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 249
Linda Jeays

La Tourtière - Pigeon Pie - - - - - - - - - - - 250
Robert F. Legget

Pollen Allergies at Ottawa - - - - - - - - - - - 252
Cliff W. Crompton and I. John Bassett

Town and Country Cousins - - - - - - - - - - - - 255
Linda Jeays

The Alewife *Alosa pseudoharengus* (Wilson)
A Fish New to the National Capital Region - - 256
Brian Coad

Recent Bird Name Changes - - - - - - - - - - - - 259
Richard Blacquiere and Bruce M. Di Labio

Mushrooms from the Gatineau - - - - - - - - - - 262
Ross Anderson

A Saw-whet Owl Survival Story - - - - - - - - - 266
Bruce M. Di Labio

The Seedathon Bird Count - - - - - - - - - - - - 268
Bruce M. Di Labio

The Club Bird Feeders - - - - - - - - - - - - - 269

Index to Volume 17 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 270

Coming Events - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 272

Welcome, New Members

Ottawa Area

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Winnipeg, Manitoba

Thank You!

I didn't realize how many people it took to put together a volume of *Trail & Landscape* until I actually counted them. The surprising total for this volume, Volume 17, was close to ninety different contributors!

Over fifty people wrote articles, notes, notices and poems, often several, during the year. A half dozen or so more gave referee and resource help. After editorial work and layout, the texts for the five issues were typed by a total of ten typists and six proofreaders, most of whom contributed their time and skills more than once. Dorothy Greene spent many hours calling up possible typists and proofreaders to find out who was available for specific nights. Supervision of the actual typing was in the capable hands of Jim Mongomery, who also keeps the *Trail & Landscape* books. This year we received extra help with production from Sheila and Harry Thomson, especially for the 88-page FON Conference issue.

Marc Guertin continued to provide his superb graphics - the feature bird for the *Recent Bird Sightings* title and most of the maps, as well as preparing the typeset titles. Allan Reddoch applied his usual high standards to the production of most of the black and white prints in this volume. Lisa Meyboom coordinated the mailing of the thousand or so copies of each issue in her usual competent way, assisted on occasion by Jennifer Chaundy and Helen Gilliatt.

To all of these people, an enormous thank you! You made *Trail & Landscape* happen!

Our thanks go also to the Acting Director of the National Museum of Natural Sciences, Charles Gruchy, for allowing us the continued use of the director's office for typing the camera-ready copy. Our special thanks to Dorothea (Freeborn) Skinner of that office, who had made the necessary arrangements almost since the beginning. Dorothea retired this year, and we wish her the very best. Doreen Sabourin is continuing Dorothea's good work in the Director's office.

The Trail & Landscape Production Team Needs Your Help

As you can see, keeping *Trail & Landscape* running well requires quite a few dedicated people. Lisa Meyboom would welcome assistance with the mailings. If you can spare a weekday morning or afternoon and want to help, call Lisa at 224-8032. If you are good at precision typing and can give us a hand with preparing the camera-ready copy, call Dorothy Greene at 722-3421 (work) or 829-9831 (home). We welcome your contribution. *JMR*

Update on Alfred Bog Preservation Effort

As you will probably have heard by now, the Ontario Municipal Board ruled in favour of the amendment proposed by the Townships of Alfred and Caledonia to permit the redesignation of the Hardee Farms holding in the Alfred Bog to Agricultural (from Conservation) Zoning. The ruling was not, frankly, a great surprise given the record of OMB decisions in the past, but it was a disappointment.

The Commissioner, D.D. Diplock, argued that only the letter of the law - in the narrowest legal sense - needed to be observed by the Townships. To accommodate the Environmental Assessment that was required by the Planning Act, he went on in his judgement, the Townships had only to satisfy themselves that enough information was known. By passing the Amendment, the Townships were, in effect, arguing that there was sufficient proof of its suitability, he said. The obvious extension of that argument is that any decision of any legislators will be assumed by the OMB to be based on satisfactory proof, simply because it was passed by that elected body. I doubt that the OMB, with that sort of reasoning, will be a candidate for the Federation of Ontario Naturalists' Conservation Award in the near future!

The battle for the Alfred Bog is far from over. It is more difficult than it would have been had we won the hearing, but, as I said above, this result was not unexpected. We have been assessing options and will continue to fight for the bog in verbal and financial ways, and will continue to report on our progress as we go along.

In the meantime, please continue to support the Alfred Bog Trust Fund. A lot of money was expended in the OMB battle despite the very minimal charges of our excellent legal team, and we need to continue the momentum, to ensure that sufficient purchase funds are available. In that light, I was delighted by the donation of over $600 made by members of Landscape Architecture Ottawa to whom I had the pleasure of speaking in July. This profession is not generally very close to conservation efforts, and so it was doubly satisfying to see their dramatic demonstration of interest and commitment to this important issue.

We have also received an unsolicited letter of support from Dr. J. Soper, President of the Canadian Botanical Association (the association for professional botanists in Canada), in addition to virtually every naturalist organization in the area. We are not alone and can justly claim a broad spectrum of support that spans the amateur and professional biological/environmental fields. So, let's keep fighting ... and let's save the Alfred Bog!

Dan Brunton, President

Recent Bird Sightings

Bill Coburn

The months of June, July and August will surely be remembered this year, if not for unusual species, then certainly for the abundant sunshine and record-breaking temperatures. This time of the year can be extremely interesting as it covers the tail end of the spring migration and the start of the fall migration. There were no bird counts during these three months, and the following details were gleaned from data supplied by regular observers and the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas reports.

June and July provided a number of reports of species seen at unusually late dates. Amongst these was a Red-throated Loon seen on June 7th at Britannia Rapids, very rare in late spring. Four Brant were observed at Graham Bay on the same day. Although not considered to be late observations, good numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were reported during June. Bufflehead were seen at Shirleys Bay on June 10th, and a male Redhead, not usually seen in the summer, was found on June 26th. It is interesting to note that Gadwall, Northern Shoveler and American Wigeon appear to be on the increase as summer residents, due perhaps to the number of sewage lagoons in our area. The Casselman lagoons tempted a Ruddy Duck and his mate to linger for the summer, but no evidence of breeding was recorded. On July 6th, a White-winged Scoter was reported at Rockland, and, ten days later, a Red-breasted Merganser was located at Russell, both unusual for the time of year.

Accipiters and Buteos were not noted in any great numbers during the period. The usual species were reported, the exception being a Merlin on June 8th and 9th, always rare in the summer. Other unusual species included Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk and Osprey.

Shorebirds were not to be outdone by other species during these three months. A Black-bellied Plover on June 16th at Russell and three Ruddy Turnstones at Stillwater Park on June 2nd and June 8th gave observers an excellent look at a rare/irregular spring migrant. In July we occasionally find shorebirds already appearing from their northern nesting grounds. Two Stilt Sandpipers found at Shirleys Bay on July 24th appear to verify this observation; however, a White-rumped Sandpiper observed on July 1st may have been a late spring or early fall migrant!

Of all the species reported and observed closely during the period, perhaps phalaropes may prove to be the most interesting.

A late summer-plumaged Red-necked Phalarope was observed on June 27th and a winter-plumaged individual on the 29th. Good numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes were noted throughout the summer from various locations such as Casselman, Russell and Winchester sewage lagoons. These lagoons, which are relatively easy to get to from Ottawa, provide excellent breeding locations for Phalaropes. The behaviour of adult Wilson's observed at these lagoons has led to suspicions of breeding activity, although, unfortunately, no evidence has yet been found. It is comforting to note, however, that the introduction of these lagoons over the past years appears to have been beneficial, at least to this particular species. A bird no doubt to watch out for in the future!

The first July record of a Great Black-backed Gull on the 8th of the month at Nepean dump came exactly one month after a report of an immature bird at Graham Bay. The increase in the number of sightings, and the unusual dates reported for this species, indicate that it may soon be seen throughout the year. A Forster's Tern usually a fall sighting, was observed on June 7th at Deschênes Lookout. Arctic Terns were to be found, five days previously, at Britannia Point, the same location providing a rare Franklin's Gull on June 9th.

Amongst other interesting items was the first summer record of a Red-bellied Woodpecker, reported on June 6th. This bird was banded and photographed at Innis Point by the Ottawa Banding Group. This organization also managed to band and photograph a second-summer male Orchard Oriole, which is the first documented record of this species for the Ottawa area.

Data collected by *The Shrike* and the Breeding Bird Atlas Project seem to indicate that certain species were more populous and widespread than ever before. For example, Willow Flycatchers appeared to be fairly widespread, and quite a few were observed during the period. Winter Wrens also increased in numbers, and Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen in good quantities on the Ontario side of the river for a change. The Airport and surrounding countryside are no longer the exclusive domain of Grasshopper and Clay-colored Sparrows as these species have now been seen from Stony Swamp in the west to Larose Forest in the east.

Other interesting reports during the period were of a Carolina Wren heard singing at Russell on July 12th and two Yellow-throated Vireos, one on June 15th at Carlsbad Springs and the other at Mannion Corners on June 18th. There were few reports of Loggerhead Shrike; it is hoped this does not indicate a general reduction in the numbers of this species.

The usual species of warblers were seen during June and July. The highlights undoubtedly were Golden-winged Warblers in their usual Lac Philippe location in June and a singing male Cerulean Warbler during the same month. Tennessee Warblers, unusual in July, were also reported.

The first Ottawa breeding record for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was established this summer when two adults were observed feeding three young near Carlsbad Springs. Breeding was also confirmed for Lincoln's Sparrow with the report of fledged young in the Mer Bleue. It is also suspected that Common Ravens may now be breeding on the Ontario side of the Ottawa River after two adults and two juveniles were observed on June 25th in the Dunrobin area. It is interesting to note that not too many years ago one had to cross the river into Quebec even to catch a glimpse of a raven.

August was not a particularly exciting month, the exception being a second-summer Little Blue Heron, seen, unfortunately, by only one observer, at Britannia. This bird, was, however, photographed and subsequently identified from the photograph. Black-crowned Night-Herons began to appear in late July and early August, not only at their usual Britannia location, but also at Shirleys Bay.

As far as duck species were concerned, there was little unusual activity during August; however, Lesser Scaup and Common Goldeneye, not normally expected, were seen at Shirleys Bay on August 21st.

A Peregrine Falcon returned to the Coates Building at Tunney's Pasture on August 1st and was seen periodically throughout the month. A pair of these birds successfully reared two young at Arnprior this summer, but, regrettably, the female was killed, and, at the time of writing, the young had not been seen for some time*. This was the first successful breeding of peregrines in Ontario since 1962.

August is, of course, the month we expect to find returning shorebirds and warblers. Accordingly, Golden Plovers were spotted at Russell Lagoons on the 19th, and five Ruddy Turnstones were observed on the 17th. Flights of 70 Red Knots and 86 Short-billed Dowitchers were seen at Shirleys Bay on the 17th of the month, both good numbers for these species at any time of the year. Red-necked Phalaropes were reported on August 23rd at Ottawa Beach, and three were spotted at Russell on the 27th.

Warblers were noted returning although not in abundant numbers or species. An early Orange-crowned Warbler on August 27th at St-Pierre-de-Wakefield was a good sighting, as was a Northern Parula noted at Britannia on August 14th.

Possibly what appeared on the surface to be a slow start to the fall migration may be the harbinger of an exciting autumn and winter. Perhaps we can expect some unusual sightings during this period. Here's hoping! The next report of *Recent Bird Sightings* will tell the story.

* *A complete account of the Peregrine Falcon nesting at Arnprior will appear in the next issue of* Trail & Landscape. *JMR*

Early Botanizing in Bytown

Jim Neelin

It was a pleasure to see so much attention given to our early naturalists in the May-August issue of *Trail & Landscape* (Vol. 17, no. 3), and the botanical sleuthing of Bill Dore was particularly intriguing (*The First Plant Specimen Collected at Ottawa*, pages 128-132). He corrected at first hand the identity of a specimen of Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) collected by P.W. Maclagan at the Chaudière Falls, Bytown, in 1843 (Trans. Botanical Soc. Edinburgh 3: 11-14 (1847); not the "Royal" Society of Edinburgh, as cited in *Trail & Landscape*).

Although no specimen is available for authentication, I believe that there is published evidence that the same species was collected from the same location more than a decade earlier. Better still, the report was by a Canadian botanist, William Sheppard, in a Canadian scholarly publication, *The Transactions of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec*, 2: 46-47 (1831). In two articles entitled *Notes on some plants of Lower Canada* this serious naturalist published the substance of four lectures read before this eclectic society. He described 170 species of well-known plants, many of them trees, giving English and French common names, contemporary from F. Pursh's *Flora Americae Septentrionalis* (1814).

Pursh had died lamentably in Montreal in 1820, having assembled and lost a collection of Canadian flora, but he and his manuscript were evidently known to the Sheppards [husband and wife] and their botanist friends in Quebec (Canadian Naturalist 54(1864)). Sheppard cited his authority often, especially for species from Upper Canada or the Ottawa valley, but he did not mention him under the heading "*Juniperus virginiana* Wm, Red Cedar. Cèdre rouge", which he described as follows: "Leaves in threes, adnate at their bases; in the young state they are imbriate; older they become spreading"; he added, "A small evergreen tree growing abundantly on the shores and islands of Lake Ontario; but very sparingly in Lower Canada; the only localities of its growth in this province, that I know of, are at the falls of the Chats and the Chaudière on the River Ottawa". He then summarized its practical utility in two long sentences.

Sheppard also located "*Juniperus communis depressa* L. (Juniper or Genevrier) .... at the falls of the Ottawa" without attribution to Pursh. Indeed he may well have collected these shrubs himself, since he was a lumber baron whose wood came from the Ottawa valley. In an address to the Botanical Society of Canada in 1861 (Edinburgh New Phil. J. 14, n.s.: 206-211, 1861), Sheppard again describes the habitat and distribution of *Juniper-*

us virginiana as follows: "It appears to dread the severe climate of Lower Canada for, with the exception of a few specimens at the Falls of the Chaudière in Hull, it is not found in this section of the province in the shape of a tree". To me this sounds like first-hand observation, but, regrettably, the Sheppards' books and natural history collections were lost in a fire in 1842 at Woodfield, their estate in Sillery.

According to Bill Dore, Maclagan erroneously identified his specimen as *Cupressus thyoides*, reputedly a more southerly plant which Sheppard does not mention. However, it is intriguing that William Jackson Hooker, in *Flora Boreali Americana* (2: 165 (1838)) includes in its habitat, "Canada. Mrs. Sheppard". This certainly anticipated Maclagan's mistake! The Sheppards, their neighbour, Mrs. Percival, and their mentor, Lady Dalhousie, supplied hundreds of specimens to Hooker when he was compiling his monumental work. One wonders whether this specimen could also be traced and verified by an enterprising botanist.

Jack Pine Trail

This November morning winter already stings the ears,
drives hands into pockets, curls up toes in boots,
foreshadows electric storms in broken branches,
tree trunks fallen wind-cracked across the trail.
The boardwalk is frost-dusted, slippery passage
across the frozen marsh. The smooth-topped ice,
algae-patterned, awaits the whipped cream snow.
Woollen scarf wrapped tightly round his face
and eyes squinting from under a tasselled hat,
he toddles, snow-suit-fattened, onto the wooden planks.
His shuffled steps obliterate the front-paired prints
of bounding squirrel, spidery prints of chickadee.
The child has no fear of barren months ahead, makes no
swift forage for provisions against the coming cold.
Spellbound by a sudden coil of wind, he squeezes up
his eyes to conjure a cottontail, rigid in its track
at the boardwalk's furthest end, adventurous length.
A moment later and the pale rabbit-feet flicker,
white bob flounces, and the vision is gone.
From the bundle of layered warmth, manmade coat,
the human eyes awake to life's persistency,
begin their knowing search of brush and fern and tree.

Linda Jeays

La Tourtière — Pigeon Pie

Robert F. Legget

Last Christmas, in common with many other Canadians in the eastern part of our country, we enjoyed *tourtière* as one of the gastronomic delights of the festival season, ours kindly provided by friends and neighbours (excellent cooks!) in the best of traditions. Enjoying them as we did, I was once again puzzled by the number of friends who did not know the origin of the name of this delightful dish. Even more surprising was the response (reported to me) of two experts, thought to be from the Department of Agriculture, who, when asked on a local radio program the origin of the name, had to admit to ignorance.

Some may think, as I did until recently, that the traditional Christmas Eve dish is derived from the less familiar word *tourte*, sometimes interpreted as "turtle dove". (Ile aux Tourtes in the Lake of Two Mountains, for example, is well known as the Island of the Turtle Dove.) *The Canadian Dictionary* gives as the meaning "homing pigeon", which is still not a very enticing idea for the well known pie.

There is even some confusion about the correct spelling of *tourtes*, *tourtres* being another version to be found in official use, as I was told in no uncertain manner after using the former spelling in *Ottawa Waterway* (1975). It has been found that in old documents relating to the original seigniories of Quebec, the word is spelled *tourtres*. The only official pronouncement that I have seen is a reference to a decision of the Quebec Commission de Géographie, which is reported to have decided, on May 18, 1955, that *tourtres* is the correct spelling. But a good friend who is an expert on the etymology of the beautiful French language assures me that in French the use of three consecutive consonants is usually avoided .... so *tourtes* it should be!

My friend tells me also that there are two separate and distinct words, each spelled *tourtes*, but with different origins, the one meaning "pie" and the other "pigeon". If any reader thinks this unusual, a moment's reflection will show that the English language also has such dual words, spelled in the same way but with different meanings and from quite different sources! Strictly speaking, therefore, we should look no further for any subtle meaning of *tourtière* but accept it as meaning just a pie.

The explanation which I had accepted, prior to this etymological advice, was that in earlier days and before such things as homing pigeons, *tourte* was used to describe a passenger pigeon, when these now-lamented birds were so common in eastern

Canada. Hence the name, *la tourtière* - passenger pigeon pie! Of this I have been assured by other good friends in rural Quebec who knew nothing of etymological niceties. The birds were caught in such vast numbers in earlier days that their use in the traditional Christmas Eve dish was understandable. Passenger pigeon pie, while probably delicious, is still sad to contemplate.

I was led to think on this matter by another delight of last Christmas - the unexpected gift of a fragile copy of a small book published in Montreal in 1856 by Hew Ramsay and apparently written by him. Its title was *The Canadian Tourist*, its contents a running commentary on Canada as then known, starting in the far west at Niagara Falls. It is interesting to see how familiar still are many of the locations described in the guide during the journey eastwards. The author finally reaches Ste. Anne de Beaupré, already a place of pilgrimage. The author concludes his description of this well known locality with these words:

"In connection with St. Anne it may be stated that pigeons in vast numbers yearly visit Canada, when the inhabitants not only get an ample supply for their own subsistence, but send such numbers to market that in Quebec they are sold at as low a price as a shilling per dozen, and sometimes even at a less rate. The parishioners of St. Anne are much spoken of for the successful means which they have adopted for killing and taking alive thousands of these birds; and the stranger on enquiry can learn the method, by which the sportsman seldom fails to bring down all the pigeons as they settle on the loftiest trees, and how, by means of perpendicular nets and poles managed by pulleys, whole flocks are trapped."

The fine reputation of the Ste. Anne de Beaupré of today rests upon no such distinction. But this reminder of things past may, perhaps, come to mind this Christmas. Readers of *Trail & Landscape* can then remind their friends that everyone who enjoys *la tourtière* should be an ardent conservationist, despite the slight etymological inexactitude.

Literature Cited

Legget, R. 1975. *Ottawa Waterway*. University of Toronto Press.

Pollen Allergies at Ottawa

Cliff W. Crompton and I. John Bassett
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Approximately 20% of Canadians suffer from allergies. The allergic reaction takes place at receptor sites within the human body between various protein antibodies and antigens. Some of those antigens are contained in pollen grains and fungal spores, mites, dust, animal dandruff, and foods, notably milk and grain products. Among the most important allergy products on the seasonal level are pollen grains. This is because many individuals are susceptible to hay fever allergies. There is evidence in the literature that hay fever can be inherited. Hay fever may also be acquired when a person's resistance is lowered due to infections such as influenza, bronchitis or anemia.

Pollen grains of various plant species which are readily transportable by air currents and are in high concentrations per cubic litre of ambient air pose a problem to some individuals because of their high antigen content. Persons may be allergic to pollen grains produced by a wide spectrum of plant genera, for instance in the grass family, or they may be specifically allergic to one species, for example, Common Ragweed.

In Canada, persons suffering from hay fever can breathe a thankful sigh of relief when fall frosts toll the bell on our hay fever plants. The hay fever season in Ottawa can be broken down because of the saesonality of flowering of the various plant species into several chronological regimes.

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	*Ottawa 25-year Mean Flowering Date*
Speckled Alder	*Alnus rugosa*	April 7
Silver Maple	*Acer saccharinum*	April 11
Trembling Aspen	*Populus tremuloides*	April 16
Beaked Hazelnut	*Corylus cornuta*	April 16
White Elm	*Ulmus americana*	April 26
Annual Meadow Grass	*Poa annua*	April 26
White Birch	*Betula papyrifera*	May 2
Manitoba Maple	*Acer negundo*	May 5
Meadow Foxtail	*Alopecurus pratensis*	May 14
Beech	*Fagus grandiflora*	May 15

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	*Ottawa 25-year Mean Flowering Date*
Bur Oak	*Quercus macrocarpa*	May 22
Kentucky Blue Grass	*Poa pratensis*	May 28
Sheep Sorrel	*Rumex acetosella*	June 3
Black Walnut	*Juglans nigra*	June 7
Orchard Grass	*Dactylis glomerata*	June 9
Bitternut Hickory	*Carya cordiformis*	June 12
Smooth Brome Grass	*Bromus inermis*	June 19
Timothy	*Phleum pratense*	June 25
Great (Giant) Ragweed	*Ambrosia trifida*	July 13
Common Ragweed	*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*	August 7

It can be seen from the above list that flowering data (phenology) can be grouped roughly into three overlapping seasons denoted by allergists as the "tree and shrub pollen season" (April-May-June), the "grass pollen season" (May-June-July), and the "ragweed pollen season" (July-August-September).

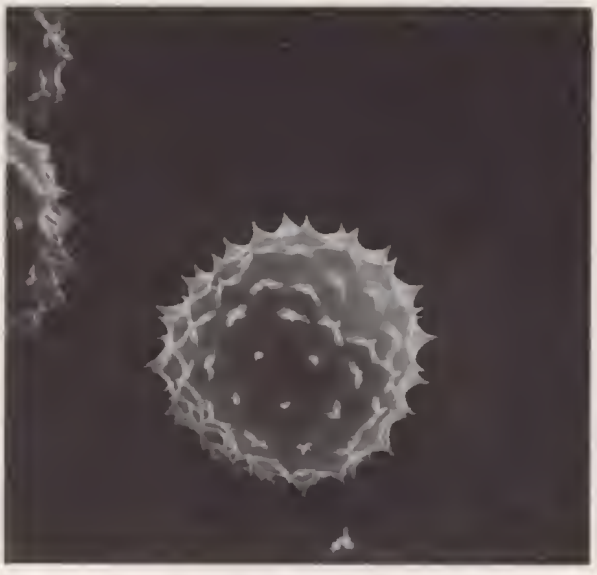
The wind and insects are two means by which vascular plant flowers are pollinated. Red Maple, Manitoba Maple and Silver

*Scanning electron photomicrograph of Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) pollen grain x 3700; note striped surface.*

Maple are pollinated by the wind; they cause considerable hay fever suffering in sensitive individuals. Willow flowers are produced in separate male and female spikes. The female flowers are visited by insects for nectar while the male spikes are visited by insects for pollen, which they use for food. Nevertheless, the small, light pollen grains are distributed by wind. Fortunately, some wind-pollinated plants do not cause hay fever; for example, spruce, pine and fir produce copious amounts of non-allergenic pollen. Insect-pollinated plants such as the Goldenrods play a minor role in hay fever since their pollen grains are sticky and seldom become airborne.

The best advice to hay fever sufferers is to have determined through medical skin testing those species of vascular plant pollen which present problems. Taking a holiday to areas where these species are absent or in low density can offer relief from symptoms. Having an air cleaner placed in the plenum of your furnace or air conditioner should offer some relief. Since pollen grain dispersal is very high in the morning, one may wish to stay indoors when those species which cause symptoms are known to be flowering.

Hay fever, to those who suffer, is a serious problem. It causes chronic discomfort, and in its acute form presents a great danger to those suffering from respiratory ailments such as asthma and emphysema. It results in causing stress to



*Scanning electron photomicrographs of Giant Ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*) pollen grain x 1700; note spiny surface.*

families with susceptible individuals and may even force people to change their place of residence or employment.

Selected Bibliography

Bassett, I.J., C.W. Crompton and C. Frankton. 1976. *Canadian havens from hay fever*. Canada Department of Agriculture Publication 1570.

Bassett, I.J., C.W. Crompton and J.A. Parmelee. 1978. *An atlas of airborne pollen grains and common fungus spores of Canada*. Research Branch, Canada Department of Agriculture Monograph No. 18. 321 pp.

Wodehouse, R.P. 1971. *Hay fever plants*. Hafner Publication Co., New York. 280 pp.

Town and Country Cousins

Among the tangled shopping carts
in the puddle-filled parking lot,
house sparrows scavenge under wheels.
Their drab mud-splashed fatigues,
civilization's bedraggled garments,
hide identity from busy crowds.
High in supermarket eaves, neon glitter,
nests produce melodies to harmonize
the metallic rhythms of a man-made world:

Sheltered from sudden rain squalls
by the weathered timbers overhead,
country sparrows trill the same song,
joining small sounds to quiet days.
Here the watcher is observant,
seeing fresh cheeks and greying heads
above the shiny dinner bibs.
The chestnut backs are sleek in sunlight,
exotic plumage of a natural world:

- Town and country cousins.

Linda Jeays

The Alewife, *Alosa pseudoharengus (Wilson)*
A Fish New to the National Capital Region
(Osteichthyes: Clupeidae)

Brian W. Coad
Ichthyology Section,
National Museum of Natural Sciences,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M8

It is now ten years since McAllister and Coad (1974) completed *Fishes of Canada's National Capital Region* in which 75 species of fishes were described from the region. A further 18 species were listed as likely to occur, since they are known from just outside the region, but none has been reported despite continuing field work.

The Ichthyology Section is particularly indebted to Mr. L. K. Jutasi, who has caught many excellent specimens for the museum and who recently collected the first known specimens of the Alewife from the region. These fish were caught on the 14th and 15th of December, 1982, in the Rideau Canal immediately below the locks at Hog's Back Road in Ottawa; they are catalogued as NMC 82-1078 and 82-1079 in the Ichthyology Collection of the National Museum of Natural Sciences. A specimen from the base of the Rideau Falls in the Ottawa River (NMC 83-0413) was picked up dead on the 9th of May, 1983.

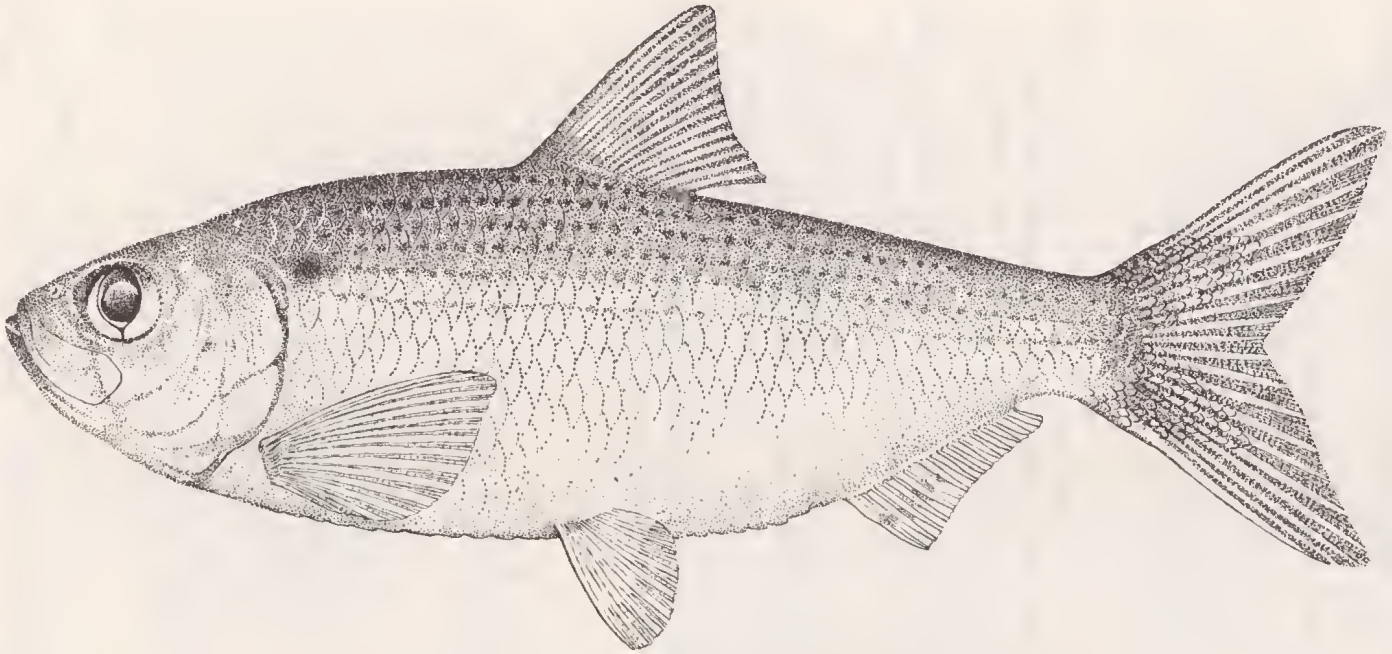
The description below follows the format of *Fishes of Canada's National Capital Region.*

Alosa pseudoharengus (Wilson)

ALEWIFE GASPAREAU

Distinguishing features. The Alewife can be distinguished from other fishes in the region by a row of sharp-edged scales along the belly. In addition there is an adipose eyelid but no lateral line or adipose fin, and scales extend onto each lobe of the caudal fin.

Description. Body strongly compressed and deep. Eye large, with well-developed adipose eyelid, and a diameter greater than snout length. Lower jaw large and protruding, not fitting completely into a groove on upper jaw. Mouth large with small, weak teeth on jaws. Head length enters standard length 3.9 - 4.2 times, body depth enters 3.0 - 3.5. Dorsal rays 17, anal rays



ALEWIFE *Alosa pseudoharengus* (Wilson)

slightly larger than life size
illustration by Charles Douglas

17 - 19. The beginning of the dorsal fin lies in front of the pelvic fins. There is a large pelvic axillary scale. Caudal fin large and deeply forked. The flank has about 50 - 51 rows of scales. Gill rakers long and numerous, variable in size, about 43 on lower arch of the largest fish. Back grey-green, sides and belly silvery and iridescent. Fins dark, especially the caudal fin which, however, has a white leading edge to the lower lobe. A single dark spot on side just behind the head. Several dark lines run along the length of the upper flanks. Body cavity lining pale with dusky spots. Our largest specimen was 166 mm total length, elsewhere reported to 356 mm. *Described from 5 specimens.*

Origin. Alewives entered the region from an Atlantic coastal refugium. Except for the dead specimen, none has been reported from the Ottawa River above the Carillon hydroelectric dam, but they are known from the Rideau system northeast of Kingston, so an origin from the latter area is more probable.

Biology. An anadromous species entering freshwater to spawn but now landlocked in inland lakes and rivers. Generally found in open waters during the day and inshore at night. Spawning occurs in May to July over sand or gravel bottoms at night with two or three fish grouped together. Eggs are 0.9 mm in diameter and number 10,000 - 12,000. Males are mature at two years and females at three years of age. Food items are small, planktonic crustaceans and insect larvae. Alewives are food for a wide variety of other fishes. Alewives are a nuisance in the Great Lakes during spring and early summer when mass die-offs occur, spoiling beaches and causing a health hazard.

Literature Cited

McAllister, D.E. and B.W. Coad. 1974. *Fishes of Canada's National Capital Region / Poissons de la capitale du Canada.* Fisheries Research Board Canada Misc. Spec. Publ. 24.

Distribution of the Alewife in the Ottawa Region

Recent Bird Name Changes

Richard Blacquiere and Bruce M. Di Labio

A new series of name changes has been accepted by the A.O.U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature. These changes appeared recently in the *Thirty-fourth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds* (The Auk 99(3): 1982). They will be incorporated ultimately into the sixth edition of the *Checklist of North American Birds* due out sometime this year.

The Thirty-fourth Supplement gives a complete list of birds in the A.O.U. area, which includes North America north of Mexico and Hawaii, but excludes Baja California, Greenland and Bermuda. Those readers familiar with the traditional taxonomic sequence will find some rearranging of the higher catagories has taken place, along with a few lumps and splits at the species level.

What concerns us in this article are the changes made in the English names of some species. Because most people will have a copy of the new fourth edition of *A Field Guide to the Birds* by Roger Tory Peterson, we have decided to use his guide as the basis of our list. The old names refer to those given by Peterson, while the new names are the ones now accepted by the A.O.U. The names are presented in the order they appear in the field guide. Changes in scientific names are fewer, and people wanting those will have to consult the Supplement. It is available by sending $3.00 U.S. to G.E. Woolfenden, Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620 U.S.A.

Changing bird names is always a controversial subject. Why after all these years is a perfectly good name no longer acceptable? Most of the new name changes are a result of the lumping or splitting of species; for example, the White-tailed Kite was merged (lumped) with a southern form and thus takes on both its scientific and English names, *Elanus caeruleus* and Black-shouldered Kite, respectively. By contrast, the Little Tern is now considered a separate species, split from the very similar Old World Little Tern; it acquires both a new scientific name and a new English name, *Sterna antillarum* and Least Tern, respectively. Less clear are some changes which do not reflect a taxonomic shuffling but instead are governed by precedent and descriptive utility; for example, the Northern Phalarope is now called the Red-necked Phalarope to bring it in line with the older European name.

Because scientific taxonomy is subject to change as study makes clear the relationships among species, we can expect more changes in names in the future. We can only encourage birders

to try to keep up with the name changes even if they do not understand their bases. Only by consistent use of standard names can accurate information be compiled and exchanged in the study of the avifauna.

REGULARLY OCCURRING SPECIES

Old Name	New Name
Thin-billed Murre	Common Murre
American Anhinga	Anhinga
Whistling Swan	Tundra Swan
White-fronted Goose	Greater White-fronted Goose
Fulvous Whistling Duck	Fulvous Whistling-Duck
Common Pintail	Northern Pintail
Common Gallinule	Common Moorhen
Wilson's Storm Petrel	Wilson's Storm-Petrel
Leach's Storm Petrel	Leach's Storm-Petrel
White Pelican	American White Pelican
Greater Black-backed Gull	Great Black-backed Gull
Black-headed Gull	Common Black-headed Gull
Little Tern	Least Tern
Louisiana Heron	Tricolored Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron	Black-crowned Night-Heron
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Ringed Plover	Common Ringed Plover
Green Heron	Green-backed Heron
Northern Phalarope	Red-necked Phalarope
Greater Prairie Chicken	Greater Prairie-Chicken
Lesser Prairie Chicken	Lesser Prairie-Chicken
Common Bobwhite	Northern Bobwhite
White-tailed Kite	Black-shouldered Kite
Common Screech Owl	Eastern Screech Owl
Saw-whet Owl	Northern Saw-whet Owl
Hawk Owl	Northern Hawk-Owl
Poor-will	Common Poorwill
Common Flicker	Northern Flicker

REGULARLY OCCURRING SPECIES (continued)

Old Name	New Name
Northern Three-toed Woodpecker	Three-toed Woodpecker
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker	Black-backed Woodpecker
Eastern Wood Pewee	Eastern Wood-Pewee
Rough-winged Swallow	Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Northern Raven	Common Raven
Northern Parula Warbler	Northern Parula
Spotted Oriole	Spot-breasted Oriole
Northern Junco	Dark-eyed Junco

ACCIDENTALS

Old Name	New Name
Banded-rumped Storm Petrel	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel
British Storm Petrel	British Storm-Petrel
White-faced Storm Petrel	White-faced Storm-Petrel
South Trinidad Petrel	Herald Petrel
Scaled Petrel	Mottled Petrel
White-winged Black Tern	White-winged Tern
European Woodcock	Eurasian Woodcock
European Jack Snipe	Jack Snipe
Greenshank	Common Greenshank
European Coot	Eurasian Coot
North American Jacana	Northern Jacana
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
Key West Quail Dove	Key West Quail-Dove
Ruddy Quail Dove	Ruddy Quail-Dove
Lesser Black Hawk	Common Black-Hawk
Kiskadee	Great Kiskadee
Stolid Flycatcher	La Sagra's Flycatcher

Mushrooms from the Gatineau

Two beautiful species you should really get to know

Ross Anderson

Beauty is no measure to follow in collecting mushrooms for the table. Two of our most attractive species are commonly known as deadly: the Destroying Angel (*Amanita virosa*) and the Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*).

Groves, the author of *Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms of Canada* (1975), says:

"For anyone interested in eating mushrooms, *Amanita* is the most important of all the genera because it is here that the deadly poisonous species belong. It is absolutely essential for the beginner to learn the diagnostic characteristics of this genus and avoid it."

So much the more, I conclude, as the two *Amanita* species we found at Lac des Iles grew among other species which they might, to a casual observer, appear to resemble.

The Destroying Angel usually appears like a ghost on the open forest floor. It can be identified by colour, a pure chalky white, its tall portly stature, a loose white skirt or annulus near the apex of the stem, and a cup or volva fitting loosely around the base of the stem and often hidden beneath a litter of leaves and duff.

This year, this *Amanita* appeared also on the open forest path among shrubs and grass. Not far away, in the same habitat, we found *Entoloma abortivum*, about the same size, 2-6 cm broad, tawny white and edible. I can guarantee the latter as we had it for breakfast, carefully avoiding the *Amanita*.

The Fly Agaric, also listed by Groves as deadly poisonous, grows in the forest but seems to prefer open space with gravelly soil. On the basis of appearance this is my favourite mushroom, coloured glowing brilliant orange on a field of citron yellow with patches of grape-nuts scattered on top. A button stage of this species shows a sort of muted tan. We found it growing, all innocence, among *Leccinum subglabripes*, an edible bolete which we collected for the table and classed as "excellent".

You could class the *Amanitas* as "excellent" also, but only for a sketch-book. I suggest that for any other purpose you should get to know them in all their stages, and then leave them carefully alone.

Amanita virosa Lac des isles

The Destroying Angel, Amanita virosa

This stately amanita is classed as the most deadly of Canada's poisonous mushrooms. It appears like a ghost on the floor of the forest and should be treated with the same respect. In earlier stages it can, and has been, confused with neighboring species with unfortunate results.

Amanita muscaria
Lac des iles, Québec
September 1983

Fly Agaric, Amanita muscaria

A brightly coloured, attractive species, this mushroom may be seen in children's story books with elves or fairies sitting on top, or underneath, depending on the weather. It can be used, apparently, as a poisonous bait for flies. It has the same effect on humans and should be recognized for beauty alone, to stay where it is, — in the forest!

Selected Bibliography

Groves, J.W. 1975. *Edible and poisonous mushrooms of Canada.* 3rd edition. Canada Department of Agriculture.
Although not as glossy as recent publications, this is still the best reference to mushrooms in the Ottawa area.

Pomerleau, R. *Flore des champignons du Québec.* Les Editions La Presse, Ltée.
With 652 large pages, illustrations of every species in black and white, and many additional illustrations in colour, this is the bible for collectors in Quebec and adjacent Ontario.

Groves, J.W. 1980. *Mushroom collecting for beginners.* revised edition. Canada Department of Agriculture, Cat. No. A43-861.
This little volume, available free from Agriculture Canada, is an excellent reference for collectors with little experience. It contains an excellent bibliography and is available in French.

THE OTTAWA DUCK CLUB

presents its

Seventh Annual Wildlife Art Show

prints - painting - carving

Friday 28 October 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday 29 October 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sunday 30 October 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

at the Nepean Sportsplex
Admission $1.00
Come early for the best selection!

Corrections to the September-October issue: Nancy Patterson's name should have been included in the list of speakers at the FON Conference (*FON Conference Volunteers*, pages 225-228), and the first author of *A Macoun Club Field Trip to the Mer Bleue* (pages 229-231) is A. Letourneau.

A Saw-whet Owl Survival Story

Bruce M. Di Labio

The Northern Saw-whet Owl is a rare winter resident in the Ottawa area. Ottawa is near the northern limit of its wintering range, and, consequently, the ones staying this far north sometimes may have difficulty surviving. One example of that occurred last winter.

On January 17, 1983, a local resident was walking his dog in a wooded area in the west end of the city. The dog began to bark at something on the ground which, upon investigation, turned out to be a small owl. When he returned home, he contacted a friend knowledgeable about birds, who went to the area and found

photograph by Bruce Di Labio

what proved to be a Northern Saw-whet Owl. There was no apparent injury to the owl, but it was very thin and weak. He took the bird home and began to revive it by feeding it fresh mice. The bird eagerly consumed the mice and within a week appeared to have regained much of its strength. At this point it was eating two mice a day. The change during the week was remarkable; from a bird that was barely able to sit on a perch, it was transformed into one that was active and alert, aware of its surroundings and one that knew what to do with a live mouse.

The owl was kept inside through the coldest part of the winter and released, after banding, back in the western part of the city on March 6, 1983. Although it was picked up in a deciduous woodlot, one that was open and had no cover, it was released in a cedar woodlot which was considered to be more suitable habitat. Given a respite from the rigours of winter life, which were nearly too much for this little owl, the prospects were good that it would be able to make it on its own in the warmer spring weather.

Christmas Bird Count Calendar

The four Ottawa area Christmas Bird Counts will take place on the dates given below.

Readers who wish to participate in one or more of these counts should telephone the relevant compiler well in advance of the date.

Count	*Date*	*Compiler*
Ottawa-Hull	December 18	Bernie Ladouceur (729-9471)
Pakenham-Arnprior	December 26	Michael Runtz (1-623-6975)
Carleton Place	December 27	Arnie Simpson (1-257-2963)
Dunrobin-Breckenridge	January 1	Bruce Di Labio (729-6267)

The Seedathon Bird Count

Bruce M. Di Labio

The third annual Seedathon was held this year on September 11, 1983. Only one party, consisting of Bruce Di Labio and Peter Dunn, participated this year. Despite the lack of observers, a new high of 130 species was achieved, topping the old Seedathon record by five species. This total will bring in over $600 from 75 sponsors. The money will go toward maintaining and supplying The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club's bird feeders in the Ottawa area. (See opposite page.)

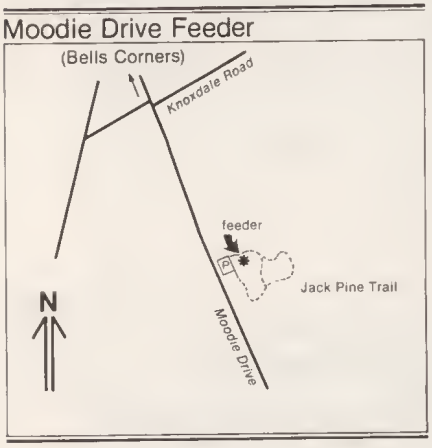
The count began at midnight at the Nepean dump listening for owls. We heard a Screech Owl at the dump, a Great-horned Owl near Munster, and a Barred Owl near St-Pierre-de-Wakefield. It began to rain at about 4 a.m. and didn't stop until shortly after dawn. The rain was followed by a gradual clearing until mid-morning when the sun appeared. This clearing was accompanied by strong winds, which diminished only in the late afternoon. The evening was clear with a light breeze. The count ended at 8 p.m. at Ottawa Beach in an unsuccessful effort to find Common Snipe. A total of 481 km was travelled by car and on foot. The only snag during the day was a half-hour delay when the observers got lost north of Masson, near Perkins, Quebec.

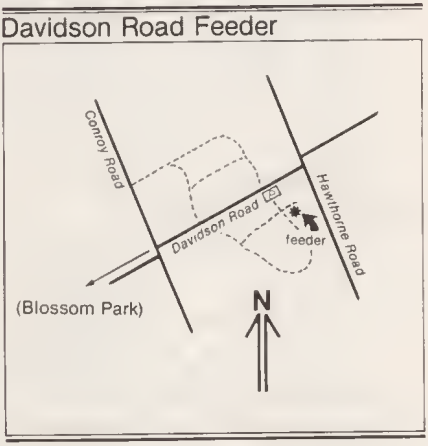
Highlights of the day included a flock of 58 ravens near Lac St. Germaine, an Olive-sided Flycatcher in the same area, 14 Stilt Sandpipers at Shirleys Bay, and an unusually large number (250) of Evening Grosbeaks. Other notables included a Baird's Sandpiper, two Whip-poor-wills, a Clay-colored Sparrow, and seven species of hawks, including two Goshawks and nine Sharp-shinned Hawks.

The rain and high winds probably inhibited passerine activity; landbirds were difficult to find. On the previous day hundreds of swallows and martins were observed, but only a fraction were located on count day.

We would like to thank all the sponsors whose contributions will benefit the continued activities of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, and we would like to encourage more participation in the future.

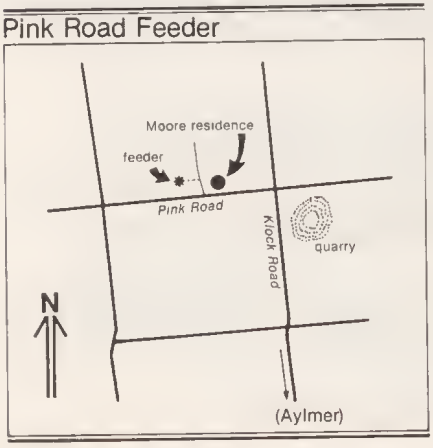
Club Bird Feeders





The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club will continue to run these three bird feeders this winter. The feeders are stocked with bird seed bought with the proceeds of the annual Seedathon.

Visit these feeders whenever you can throughout the winter. There's always the chance of seeing something new. And, next September, be a Seedathon sponsor!



In addition to our feeders, the National Capital Commission operates a feeder beside the parking lot at the Mer Bleue Interpretation Centre on the Dolman Ridge Road in Gloucester. *JMR*

Index to Volume 17

BIRDS

Albino Spotted Sandpiper, An, 59
Annual spring field trip to Presqu'ile Provincial Park, 234
Bluebird trail - 1982, 99
Club bird feeders, The, 272
Gray Kingbird, second confirmed record for Canada, 56
Help the OFNC Seedathon, 194
Holiday in the marsh, A, 116
Junipers, (onions), robins and waxwings, 66
La tourtière - pigeon pie, 250
On collecting, 52
Ottawa Banding Group, The, 8
Recent bird name changes, 259
Recent bird sightings, 6, 58, 112, 204, 245
Sandhill Crane overwinters in the Ottawa area, 114
Saw-whet Owl survival story, A, 266
Second annual Christmas Bird Count roundup, 60
Seedathon Bird Count, The, 268
Species list for Ottawa-Hull Christmas Bird Counts, 63
Spring story, A, 145
St. Lawrence birding trip, 72
Thanksgiving whale trip, 36
Winter birding trip, A, 182

OTHER VERTEBRATES

Alewife *Alosa psuedoharengus* (Wilson) a fish new to the National Capital Region, The, 256
Congregation of toads, A, 202
Glimpses into the life of a fox family, 67
Macoun Club field trip to the Mer Bleue, 229
Wolverines in Gatineau Park?, 31

INSECTS

Butterflies of the Ottawa District 1982 update, 133
Tiger Beetles of the Ottawa Valley, 15

PLANTS

Early botanizing in Bytown, 248
First plant specimen collected at Ottawa, The, 128
How many uninvited plants in your garden?, 179
Junipers, (onions), robins and waxwings, 66
Mushrooms from the Gatineau, 262
Ottawa collectables: a spring repast for artists and gourmets, 208
Ottawa mushrooms: collector's items for the summer, 139
Ottawa mushrooms: collector's items for the spring, 73
Plant pitfalls, traps and snares, 126
Pollen allergies at Ottawa, 252
Pondweeds (Potamogeton) of the Ottawa District, 79
Winter wildflowers in Ottawa:, 24

FOSSILS
Significance of the fossil locality at Green Creek, Ontario, 164

LANDSCAPE, CONSERVATION
Alfred Bog, 147
Defense of Alfred Bog - update, 195
East end of the Mer Bleue - there and back again, 232
Environment Canada's position on some local issues, 12
Greenbelt conservation program 1983, 212
Macoun Club field trip to the Mer Bleue, 229
On collecting, 52
On cutting, 51
Raccoon Dogs, an environmental story with a happy ending, 48
Update on Alfred Bog preservation effort, 244

CLUB AFFAIRS
Attractive shrubs for Club members, 38
Call for nominations for OFNC awards, 5, 201
Call for nominations for OFNC Council, 194
Council Report, 44, 109, 203
Excursions and Lectures Committee, The, 32
FON Conference volunteers, 225
Honorary membership and 1983 OFNC awards, 198
Macoun What's What, 64
President's message, 43, 106
Soirée again a success, 196
Three views of the FON Conference, 216
Welcome, new members, 2, 105, 242

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE
It works both ways!, 13
Trail & Landscape: acknowledgements and help wanted, 243
Trail & Landscape circulation, 47

FIELD TRIPS
Annual ski outing with the Thomsons, 184
Annual spring trip to Presqu'ile Provincial Park, The, 234
OFNC annual picnic, 34
St. Lawrence birding trip, 72
Thanksgiving whale trip, 36
Winter birding trip, A, 182

MISCELLANEOUS
Federation of Ontario Naturalists report, 4, 46, 110
Jack Pine Trail, 249
Miracle, The, 65
Ottawa Regional Science Fair, 11
Science Focus - focus on wetlands, 14
Town and country cousins, 255

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee
Paul Catling (996-1665), Chairman

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader.

weekend
November
18-20

BIRDING TRIP TO NIAGARA
Leader: Bruce Di Labio
See the last issue of *Trail & Landscape* for details.

Tuesday
8 Nov.
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
POLLEN, POLLENOSIS, POLLINATORS AND PALYNOLOGY
Speaker: Cliff Crompton
Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets

Cliff is one of the pollen experts with the Biosystematics Research Institute of Agriculture Canada. He has written numerous papers on pollen as well as a guide to Canadian airborne pollen. He will discuss the different kinds of pollen and how pollen is adapted to function in different ways related to the different methods of pollination. The importance of pollen to mankind both in terms of its usefulness, for example in researching past climates and vegetation, and its problem potential, for example allergic reactions, will also be considered. The talk will contain valuable information, but no ultimate cure, for those suffering from hay fever. (See pages 252-255 of this issue.)

Saturday
12 Nov.
9:00 a.m.

RAMBLE IN THE GATINEAU
Leader: Philip Martin
Meet: Parking lot of the Supreme Court Building on Wellington Street

This will be a general interest walk to see what interesting things can be found at this not very popular time of year. The emphasis will probably be on fungi, fruits, nuts and seeds. Bring a lunch and a hand lens, and dress warmly.

Sunday
4 Dec.
7:00 a.m.

WINTER FINCHES AND LATE MIGRANTS
Leader: Bruce Di Labio
Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue
This outing in the west end of Ottawa will be looking for early winter signs of finches and of migrants still going through. Bring binoculars and a scope if you have one. Dress warmly and bring a snack.

Wednesday
7 Dec.
7:30 p.m.

WINTER BIRD IDENTIFICATION
Leader: Frank Bell
Meet: Activity Room #15, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets
Slides and recordings will help you hone your winter birdwatching and listening skills.

Tuesday
13 Dec.
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
THE STUDY OF DINOSAURS - A LITTLE BIT ABOUT A BIG PROBLEM
Speaker: Dale Russell
Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.
Were dinosaurs warm-blooded? Did you know that some cared for their young? There were both primitive and advanced dinosaurs, and some were much more intelligent than was previously thought. What caused their extinction? What if there had been no extinction? Dale Russell has been curator of fossil vertebrates at the National Museum of Natural Sciences for nearly 20 years. He has done extensive field work in Africa and North America, and has done some of the pioneering work in the fields of dinosaur intelligence and classification of carnivorous dinosaurs.

Tuesday
10 Jan.
8:00 p.m.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets
The 105th Annual Business Meeting of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club will be conducted in the usual speedy manner; it will probably be followed by a film. The next issue of *Trail & Landscape* will carry full details, but if the mail doesn't deliver the next issue to you in time, come anyway!

DEADLINE: Material intended for the January-February issue must be in the Editor's hands before October 23.

ISSN 0041-0748

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

published by

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

Second Class Mail - Registration Number 2777
Postage paid in cash at Ottawa

Change of Address Notices and undeliverable Copies:
Box 3264 Postal Station C, Ottawa, Ont.
K1Y 4J5
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Printed by
LOMOR PRINTERS LTD.